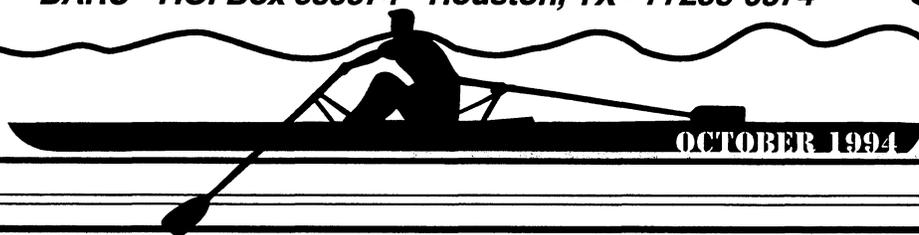


# STROKEWATCH

BARC • P.O. Box 580374 • Houston, TX • 77258-0374



OCTOBER 1994

## BARC: MEDIUM AND STILL GROWING!

by Bill Dixon

BARC is no longer considered a "small" rowing club. When we broke 100 members, the insurance company graduated our classification to "MEDIUM"!!

The growth over the past several years can be attributed to only one thing: The more than medium effort put forth by our dedicated volunteers! Before listing the instructors who gave so much of themselves to make our sweep and sculling classes a success, please accept my apology if I have not personally thanked you for your hard work or if I fail to list you here. BARC can be a busy place, and I'm sorry if I miss someone on occasion.

Thank you - Thank you - Thank you!!

★Paula Berman

★Mike Brint

★Don Erwin

★Jim Hogarth

★Paul Lanoux

★Fran Lantz

★Wendy Lawrence

★Bruce Meltzer

★Ted Paxton

★Jim Potter

★Dimitri Rachuk

★Anil Raj

★Carl Smith

★Chris Woelfel

★Karl Zimmer



There isn't another sweep class until May, but if you'd like to volunteer for some other club activities there are plenty of them with which to assist. Here's a quick list:

- There are opportunities to help with the sculling "Try It You'll Like It" sessions held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. (contact Bill Geissler).
- There is a committee planning the Space City Sprints V regatta that could use your assistance in locating sponsors (contact Paul Lanoux).
- The club's dues and storage fee structure is currently being examined by a group chaired by Bruce Meltzer.
- The board is revising the Membership Handbook and pamphlet that describes the club's By-laws and is in need of your input.

A phone list is included in this newsletter. Please use it to contact a board member with any comments, questions or volunteer to participate in any of these activities.

## NEW SCHEDULING VICTIM

by Paula Berman

According to my father, when anyone asks for volunteers, my Mom is the only one in the room with both hands up. It must be genetic. Anyhow, in a weak moment, I volunteered to take over the job of Scheduler, upon Chris's departure. Here's a quick rundown of my planned SOP (Standard Operating Procedure).

Once a month there will be a Captain's meeting. One person from each scheduled four, quad or eight needs to sign up for a time slot every month. If you can't make it to the meeting, get in touch with me by phone (home: 332-5717, work: 280-4684) or by e-mail (home: paxber@aol.com, work: u5x58@fh1.hso.link.com), within the few days BEFORE the meeting. Crews who do not sign up for boats or who do not fill out the log sheets for more than two weeks in a row, are out of a slot. (Hint: so it's worth it to sign out even if you couldn't row.) This is pretty much the same as the policy that has been in force under Chris.

Please let me know if your crew has broken up (or shrunk to a smaller boat)

—continued at bottom of page 2—

## NEW EQUIPMENT UPDATE

by Bill Dixon

I hope you have had the opportunity to row the quad with the hatchet blades. Concept II was generous enough to offer BARC a substantial discount on these blades, calling them "factory seconds". (Don't tell anybody, but I just happen to know that they made those blades specifically for us!)

Speaking of generosity, the quad purchase was to a large extent underwritten by one of our own members. This is the first, brand new, never-been-touched-by-human-hands, boat BARC

—continued at bottom of page 2—

## RICE ROWING CLUB CONTRACT

by Bill Dixon

"The purpose of the Bay Area Rowing Club of Houston is to promote the sport of rowing in the greater Houston area and help each club member reach the level of rowing proficiency he or she seeks ..."

- Bay Area Rowing Club Membership Handbook

Prior to his departure for Florida, Anil Raj worked tirelessly on a contract between the Rice Rowing Club (RRC) and BARC. Recognizing that you may be inconvenienced or even displaced by members of RRC, Anil strove to structure a synergistic relationship with RRC. His intent was that neither club should subsidize the operations of the other, and that inconvenience to the BARC membership should be minimized. This agreement will be open to re-negotiation at the end of the year. Key components of the agreement are summarized below:

- RRC bought the Tomahawk from BARC
- RRC contracted for the storage of their two 8+s (including the Tomahawk), oars, launch and launch motor
- RRC is renting the Karankawa on a limited basis
- BARC's compensation is calculated in the form of a shell storage fee, institutional membership fee, and usage fee for the Karankawa
- BARC has use of the Rice launch and motor ONLY in emergencies and by special arrangement
- The boathouse combination is to be given ONLY to the designated agents of RRC as prescribed by the Rice Coach (Hannes Hofer)

Traffic at the dock during peak times has doubled due to the agreement. Please observe minimum dock times and record your outings in the log books. Because of potential boat scheduling conflicts, it is essential that regular captains' meetings and boat scheduling take place. Paula Berman has assumed the role of boat scheduler and plans on having the captains' meetings approximately the third Thursday of each month.

Eric Richards will serve as the liaison between BARC and RRC. If you have concerns about how RRC is interacting with our membership, using our equipment, safety or the use of the boathouse, please direct them to Eric or a board member.

### New Equipment Update

--continued from page 1--

has ever purchased. At the last membership meeting, a resolution was passed to name the quad after its major benefactor, Richard Laurance. The challenge now is to find a name Richard is comfortable with since he doesn't want anyone to think he's dead. How 'bout "Spirit of Seattle"? Please present your suggestions to a board member or at the next membership meeting.

Tom Lotz located a Julian single and purchased it for BARC from the Dallas Rowing Club last weekend. It is now in the boathouse and ready to be rowed by those certified to row at that level. Please see any of the sculling instructors if you're not sure if you're qualified. Thanks, Tom!

The board will be working toward the acquisition of additional equipment

in the coming year. Please let us know what kind of equipment you think the club needs to consider for our next purchase. There has been considerable discussion about the purchase of a club double, replacing some of our entry level shells, and the purchase of a new 8+.

### NAMES TO BE PLACED ON PRIVATE EQUIPMENT RACKS

The board has approved a motion to place the owners' names on the racks in the boathouse. This should be complete by the time StrokeWatch goes to print. Please remember to label your equipment with 2 bands of red tape.

## CAN YOU HEAR THE SPIRITS WHISPERING? (YOU COULD IF YOU WERE CAMPING AND CANOEING ON THE BRAZOS!)

by Tina Bryan

Legend has it that "a band of Indians attacked a Spanish mission near the river and killed everyone but one friar and a few Indian converts. Frantically the group crossed the river, and the warriors spotted them. (UH OH!!) As the screaming Indians rushed across the river, a great (gargantuan!) wall of water caught them in midstream and swept them away. The friar was so grateful, he proclaimed they had been saved from torture and death by the arms of God - los BRAZOS de Dios." <Excerpt stolen from a book provided by Troy "Manly Man" Roques. Thanks, Troy!>

Isn't that a wonderful story?!! Now you too can sleep on the banks of the Brazos River and listen for Indian spirits. On Saturday, November 12 we will be departing in the not-too-wee hours of

--continued on page 3--



### Scheduling Victim

--continued from page 1--

and you no longer need your slot.

When I get a chance, I'll also post a sign up sheet in the boathouse for singles time slots. This will be less formal than the procedure for the bigger boats; just sign up for a time slot and a boat. Again, if you don't sign out for a couple of weeks in a row, you may be out of a time slot.

The first meeting is (or was, depending on when you read this) on Thursday, 10/20/94, at 7:30 p.m. The address is 605 Fourth Street in League City. Again, you don't have to show up for the meeting; just contact me beforehand.



## Christmas is Coming!

Each year we hold a Christmas party at which BARCers give the club an item of their choice. A little brainstorming resulted in the following suggestions. If you think of something else, please add it to the list that will be posted in the boathouse. If you decide to provide an item, cross it off the list. The Christmas party will be held on December 18. The location is still to be determined.

- \* Lights for the boats
- \* 5 Channel "Walkie Talkie" type radios (such as those carried by Radio Shack)
- \* Lights for the dock
- \* Channel locks
- \* Vise grips
- \* Adjustable wrenchs
- \* 7/16" wrenchs
- \* Pliers
- \* Extension cords
- \* Cox box
- \* Rigger stick



### Can You Hear the Spirits?

--continued from page 2--

the morning to canoe and camp along the Brazos River. That's right ... tents and sleeping bags and bug spray and behind-the-tree potties!!! Yea!!! Sunday we will wake up to a beautiful brisk Autumn morning and spend another leisurely day on the river. After a wonderful, incredible, fabulous, unforgettable, overnight getaway, we will return to the city by dusk. Move over real world!!! Let's escape!!

I am gathering details as we speak and so far it looks like we have about ten "for sure" adventurous spirits. One trailer holds eight canoes so we need to limit the group to sixteen people. Bill "Mad Dog" Donnelly has generously agreed to pull the rented canoes with his van and carry as many persons as will fit in the Mad Dogmobile. Well, of course, we'll pitch in for gas Mad Dog!! But with a name like that we may have to insist on doing the driving ourselves!

In the next week or so I am going to meet with Don Greene, owner of the canoe rental shop over by Bellaire, and he is going to give me directions to the starting site and other tips on how to have a successful canoe trip. Cooooo! The rental cost per person should be around \$20.00. We will only have to travel about one hour outside of Houston so no rushing is allowed!!

Prior to the trip we will have an "Oh I Can't Wait to Go Canoeing" meeting to discuss the fine details of where, when and what to bring. (I bet Mike "Sexy" Meschler would let us have it at his house!!!)

In the meantime, give me a call with any ideas, suggestions or names to add to the "adventurous spirit" list! It ought to be FABULOUS!!! And I may even bring my Twister game!! See ya at the boathouse!! Tina B. - Home 286-1837, Work 241-8817. CALL ME!!!

*Post Script:* Can't swim? Do not be afraid! Karl "Dirt" Zimmer will be in attendance. Dirt can swim better than any fish I know. Trust me!!! Bring your fins and snorkel, Dirt!

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

by Steph Scherger

I know everyone is eager to show off their literary prowess by publishing an article in StrokeWatch. So I thought it might be useful for you to know how to get an article to me, what kind of publishing capabilities I have, and most of all *the monthly DEADLINE!* (Like you don't have enough of those in your life.)

The deadline for getting articles to me is

the 12th of each month. I would prefer to receive your article on a diskette. I can import from:

- WordPerfect v. 5.1 or 5.0
- Word for Windows 2.0 or 1.0
- ASCII text

I realize it's not always possible or convenient to get a disk to me, but if you happen to be at the boathouse on Saturday morning, you can bring it by then. You can always come visit me at 2202 GeminiAve. too. Anyway, you can also fax your articles to me. If you want to fax me at home, please call first. My home phone is 486-8080, which is also the fax line, so call me and I can set the fax up to receive. You can also fax me at work. Please call me at work (348-1128) if you want to do that because my work fax number is about to

--continued on page 4--



**DO NOT USE PRIVATE  
EQUIPMENT WITHOUT THE  
EXPLICIT PERMISSION OF  
THE OWNER!!**

## Newsletter Deadlines

--continued from page 3--

change, and I'll have to tell you what the new number is.

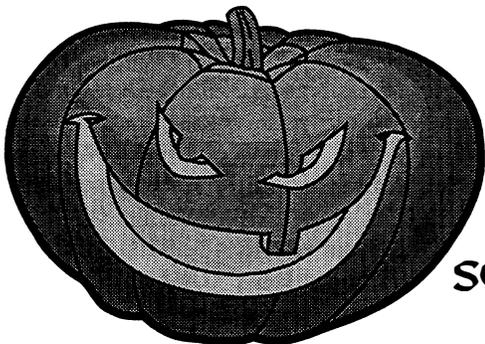
I have access to a lot of desktop publishing equipment including a 600 dpi color scanner and an 800 dpi laser printer, which will allow me to put photographs in the newsletter. I can scan both color and black and white images, but they will print in black and white. I'm more than willing to put photographs in, you just have to get them to me.

If there are any questions or ideas you have about the newsletter, please tell me about them. I'm having fun putting StrokeWatch together, and I'd like to make it as interesting and fun to read and look at as possible. Note: I didn't mention complaints. If you have any of those, talk to Bill Dixon. Just kidding, I'm willing to take criticism too. That's the only way to get better.

## FALL ROWING REMINDERS

**LIGHTS** -- As the hours of daylight diminish it's critical that all BARC coxes and scullers take responsibility to light their boats. Crews using lights at the boathouse should periodically contribute fresh batteries, too. Brenda has bought a nifty bow light which takes "D" size cells. The penlight strobes which are used on the four and some sculling boats are available for under \$10 at the Oshman's Superstore on I-45. You may recall Dave Gill's piece in American Rowing which showed how to mount a bow light too.

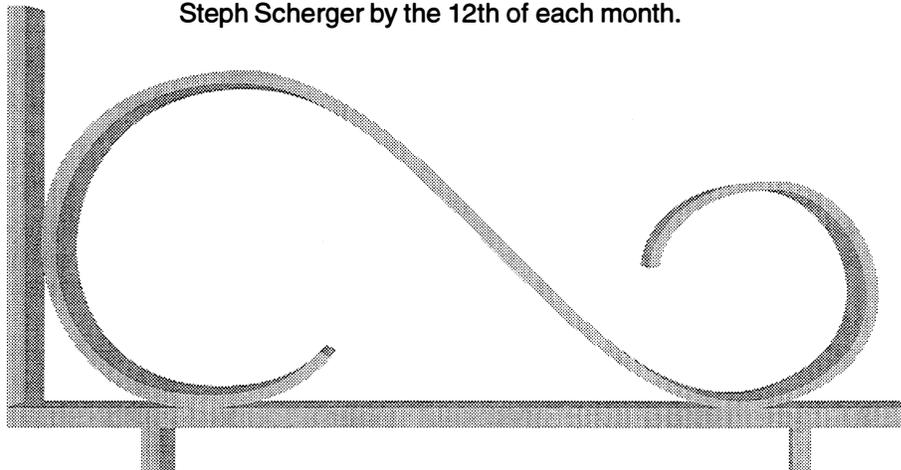
**LOG BOOK** -- All rows must be logged in the log book. Suggestions to make this easier and more useful are welcome. Ample blank log sheets will be available.



## BARC CLASSIFIEDS

*As always -- We'll Save You Money!!*

If you have an item for sale that you'd like to stick in StrokeWatch, please contact Steph Scherger by the 12th of each month.



## FOR SALE

### SINGLE FOR SALE

#### 1987 Owen Racing Single Shell

Dark blue hull. Includes boat cover.

Bargain Price: \$2500.00

Contact: Richard Laurance

(home) 532-1939

(work) 244-7785

### FOR SAIL!!

#### 1985 Lido 14' Sailboat

includes galvanized trailer. (Entire combination weighs about 300-400 lbs.) Great boat for learning to sail! It's a steal at \$1250.00 (Willing to wheel and deal with serious, potential buyers)

Contact: Steph Scherger

(home) 486-8080

(work) 348-1128

(mobile) 205-0424

## BARC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER 1994

October 9	Board Meeting (7:30 p.m.)
October 12	Newsletter Articles Due
October 15	Try It You'll Like It Sculling
October 24	General Meeting at Park (7:30 p.m.)
October 30	Pumpkin Head Regatta - Austin

### NOVEMBER 1994

November 12	Newsletter Articles Due
November 13	Board Meeting (7:30 p.m.)
November 18	General meeting at restaurant
November 19	Try It You'll Like It Sculling

### DECEMBER 1994

December 11	Board Meeting (7:30 p.m.)
December 12	Newsletter Articles Due
December 18	Christmas Party

see you AT THE PUMPKIN HEAD!!